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July 17, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Reid and Chairman Leahy,

As the author and original cosponsor of the bipartisan *Innovation Act*, we write to urge you to act expeditiously to pass this critical legislation.

In recent years we have seen an exponential increase in the use of weak or poorly granted patents by "patent trolls" to file numerous patent infringement lawsuits against American businesses with the hopes of securing a quick payday. This abuse of the patent system is not what our Founding Fathers provided for in our Constitution. At its core, abusive patent litigation is a drag on our economy and stifles innovation. Bad actors who abuse the patent system devalue American intellectual property and are a direct threat to American innovation.

By an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 325-91 in December 2013, the House took action to combat the ever increasing problem of abusive patent litigation. This comprehensive bill targets abusive patent litigation. This comprehensive bill increases transparency, modernizes fee shifting, enhances education and outreach to small businesses, and better protects our nation's patent system. This important bill will help fuel the engine of American innovation and creativity, creating new jobs and growing our economy. Effective patent reform legislation requires the careful balance that was achieved in the *Innovation Act*.

This bill is supported by stakeholders from all areas of our economy representing businesses from every corner of our country including independent inventors and innovators. This bill, supported by The White House, also fulfills many of the key legislative priorities outlined by President Obama last year.

We believe inaction is simply inexcusable. The time is now, and the *Innovation Act* has helped set a clear bipartisan road map toward eliminating the abuses of our patent system, discouraging frivolous patent litigation and keeping U.S. patent laws up to date. We believe that we can work together to improve our patent system and put our economy first.

The Honorable Harry Reid and The Honorable Patrick Leahy
July 17, 2014
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Sincerely,



Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Judiciary Committee



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Cosponsors of H.R. 3309, the *Innovation Act*

Rep. Spencer Bachus
Rep. Steve Chabot
Rep. Jason Chaffetz
Rep. Howard Coble
Rep. Peter DeFazio
Rep. Blake Farenthold
Rep. George Holding
Rep. Mike Honda

Rep. Jared Huffman
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Rep. Zoe Lofgren
Rep. Tom Marino
Rep. Betty McCollum
Rep. Lamar Smith

cc: Sen. Mitch McConnell
Sen. Charles Grassley